

WI FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

*Urge DILHR & DNR to review PECFA and determine where costs can be cut and duplication of efforts be curtailed
Urge that farm fuel tank regulations be rewritten so they are less expensive to comply with and easier to understand
Support legislation to revise and update drainage laws and believe that DATCP should be given more authority over agricultural drainage matters
Support more flexibility in NR243 (Animal Waste Runoff Program) to allow cost sharing if relocation of an operation is necessary
Urge the formation of an agricultural chemical clean-up fund which is not funded by user fees, but rather by the consumers as a whole, being the ultimate beneficiaries of our food production system
Support a public policy which would require all public agencies to use lands which are less valuable for agricultural use for public projects.
Oppose funding for any more land purchases by DNR and believe that agricultural land currently owned by DNR be leased back to farmers at local rates and under local customs

*Believe that farmer's rights should be recognized in any wetlands legislation, including the right to maintain farm drainage systems and ditches. Any such legislation should compensate (property tax credits) farmers for restrictions placed on any lands classified as wetlands
Believe that a consistent set of definitions and guidelines needs to be adopted for all wetlands and wetlands that have been farmed should be allowed to remain in agricultural production
Urge DOT to treat agricultural land equal to wetlands when obtaining land for building roads

*Support legislation providing direct tax credits to manufacturing plants here in the state producing ethanol and other corn products

FARMERS UNION
Milk Marketing Cooperative

(nothing stated regarding environment)

WI FARMERS UNION

*Support state legislation providing for the maintenance of streams (widening & clearing of brush & debris) in order that there will be adequate capacity to avert flooding of homes and farmlands

*Promote the increased use of ethanol and soy diesel as alternative fuels

WI PORK PRODUCERS

(nothing stated regarding environment)

WI WOMEN FOR
AGRICULTURE

*Support DATCP authority of prevention of groundwater contamination and the use of pesticides

*Support the production of ethanol in Wisconsin plants

WI FEDERATION OF
COOPERATIVES

*Urge that state officials recognize the variety of sources of pollution and request that they more carefully coordinate their efforts and consolidate their resources to identify these sources, the actual impact and damage as well as the realistic remedies

Urge the legislature to use general tax revenues in addition to imposing user fees or surtaxes to establish a compensation program for remediation required to protect groundwater

- (Federation of Coops cont.) ***Support** incentives for the use of state-produced alternative fuels in the form of fuel tax relief
- EQUITY COOPERATIVE
LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC. ***Recommend** that if citations are to be issued for environmental violations, regulatory authority be given to the County Land Conservation Committee rather to DNR
- WI SHEEP BREEDERS ***Oppose** allowing DNR wardens to issue citations for environmental violations on private lands
- WI SHEEP BREEDERS ***Support** the just compensation and respect of individual property rights for producers affected by state mandates to address clean water, air and the preservation of plants and animals
- WI POTATO & VEGETABLE
GROWERS ***Oppose** efforts by the legislature and agencies to expand shoreland zoning authority and delineate wetlands that would preempt federal law because the federal government is in the process of developing a uniform wetland delineation manual that would preempt any state action
***Oppose** the confiscation of private wetlands without full value compensation of these same wetlands because the DNR's Wetland Water Quality rules expropriate private wetlands for public use and preclude development of these lands for agricultural use
- WI CORN GROWERS ***Support** a less restrictive atrazine level in Wisconsin and nationally in response to research data from scientists within and outside EPA that supports changing the Maximum Contaminant Level
- WI CORN GROWERS ***Urge** that, regarding wetlands, farmers be allowed to maintain existing drainage structures and make repairs and improvements to drainage systems as necessary and that exemptions from wetland protection be allowed for lands cropped or considered cropped six out of ten years or converted to agricultural uses prior to 12-23-85 and that proper compensation is provided to property owners if wetlands protection results in an economic loss on a parcel of land
- WI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION ***Believe** that any further restrictions on agricultural use of wetlands needs to be clearly defined and that proper analysis be given to the impact on agriculture and the environment
***Strongly oppose** state or local environmental standards stricter than those of federal agencies
- WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION ***Establish** priority project funding for distressed rural communities in the Stream Bank Protection Program
- WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL ***The WI environmental regulations relating to air and water quality, erosion, animal waste and pesticide and fertilizer usage consider the competitive factor in relation to other states and nations. Some environmental costs place a great burden on farmers and they cannot recover their costs in a market where prices are based on a national standard.**

(Agri-Business Council cont.)

***Oppose** laws expanding DNR authority over agricultural practices in wetlands including authority for 404 type programs and any extension of shoreland zoning

***Urge** that legislation be enacted to allow farmers to reduce the wildlife population so that crop damage may be lowered to acceptable levels

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

***If** land and water management regulations unnecessarily impinge on the farmers' right to earn a living, the state should bear the cost of such regulations

RETIREMENT/FINANCE

CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

***Recommend** that the federal government restore the Capitol Gains for agriculture to its status prior to the 1987 Federal Tax Reform Program

WI FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

***Support** reinstatement of capital gains treatment for timber, livestock, depreciable assets and land

***Support** a capital gains exclusion for insolvent farmers on liquidation of farm property

***Support** a capital gains exclusion for landowners who are forced to sell by condemnation and don't wish to purchase new land to continue agricultural operations

***Support** allowing farmers, other business owners or self-employed taxpayers to invest proceeds from the sale of real and personal property in an IRA, Keogh plan, etc.

***Support** revisions in Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Law because of its effect on the selling of farm property. Revisions are necessary to protect all parties of property transfer and indebtedness

FARMERS UNION
Milk Marketing Cooperative

(nothing stated)

WI FARMERS UNION

***Support** reform of capital gains and inheritance taxes to aid the transfer of family farms from one generation to the next

***Recommend** that full-time farmers for a minimum of 5 years in farming be eligible for a decent retirement. Farmer and spouse should be able to accumulate \$10,000 per year with a limit of \$500,000 per farm and be able to put complete amount in and IRA when they sell out. The funding would be from the sale of qualified farm assets such as farm real estate and all capital and non-capital assets. Farmers and self-employed would be allowed to set up their own individual retirement plan thereby deferring income taxes on their investments

***Request** that deficiency payments be made at pre-projected rates to all livestock farmers in an area declared a disaster area

WI PORK PRODUCERS

(nothing stated)

WI WOMEN FOR
AGRICULTURE

*Support life-time exemption from capital gains tax of \$200,000 per individual for property used in a trade or business in which the individual or spouse has actively participated

Support the Farm Equity Act of 1994 which would allow for the transfer of assets from a farm sale into special accounts similar to IRAs to be sheltered from tax liabilities until funds are actually used

WI FEDERATION OF
COOPERATIVES

*Urge the Governor and legislature to continue the CROP Program and oppose blanket moratoriums on foreclosures which may reduce the availability and raise the cost of credit to other farm borrowers

EQUITY COOPERATIVE
LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC.

(nothing stated)

WI SHEEP BREEDERS

(nothing stated)

WI POTATO & VEGETABLE
GROWERS

*Support a revision in the Unemployment Compensation schedule to raise the quarterly \$20,000 gross wage exclusion to reflect the rate of inflation and current minimum wage rate because small agricultural employers that were intentionally excluded by the law when it was written in 1978 are now subject to the law due to increases in the Minimum Wage requirements

Support streamlining credit delivery systems of all lenders to assure the availability of long-term fixed rate financing to improve the economic safety and soundness of agriculture

Support enhancing ag credit methods and policies to enable farmers to effectively compete in world markets

WI CORN GROWERS

*Request that the state and federal governments enact legislation stating that a farmer maintain ownership of his grain until the check from the purchaser clears

Support legislation that allows producers to receive a premium for each point below 15% because corn producers are discounted for each point of moisture over 15% and to store corn long term it must be dried below 15%

WI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

*Oppose policies or legislation at the state level which would artificially or arbitrarily set the price of commodities, goods or services

*Support a program that grants tax deferral rollover treatment and privileges to the farm sale proceeds such as are granted to IRAs, 401Ks, Keough, etc. for those who pass the "hands on management test"

WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION

(nothing agriculture related)

WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL

(nothing stated)

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

(nothing stated)

HEALTH CARE

(Only listed groups which had a position)

- WI FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION *Support a 100% deduction of medical insurance and if this is not granted
the cost of all employer provided health care should be taxed
- FARMERS UNION *Support 100% deductibility of health care premiums for self-employed
Milk Marketing Cooperative.
- WI FARMERS UNION *Support national health care system
Support 100% deduction of health care premiums for state and federal
income tax purposes
Support state rural health education development and promotion efforts
- WI WOMEN FOR
AGRICULTURE *Support 100% deduction of health care premiums
Support voluntary programs which encourage farm safety
- WI FEDERATION OF
COOPERATIVES *Urge that health insurance premiums paid by self employed individuals be
fully deductible
Recognize that the maintenance of a decentralized health care system is
critical to rural development
Urge the Legislature and Governor to avoid all future efforts to mandate
more services on health insurance coverage and urges them to support
stricter controls and utilization limits on current mandates
- *Supports the formation of a legislative environment which is conducive to
the successful operation of HMOs
Supports all legislative efforts to keep competitive closed panel provisions
intact for HMOs which permit the HMO to contract with all types of health
care providers on a closed panel basis. The bargaining power of HMOs to
contract with only certain providers promotes competition, lowers costs and
encourages prevention-oriented care
Supports the right of consumer-sponsored HMOs to determine the benefit
plans they wish to offer. Expansion of the current benefit structure
mandated through insurance laws serves only to interfere with the market
place's right to determine the coverage it wishes to purchase and aggravate
a competitive inequity between state regulated HMOs and the unregulated
self-insured plans of many employers
Opposes any direct or indirect taxation of the premiums of HMOs including
HIRSP assessments as a tax on essential health care services required by
the citizenry
- Supports the immediate development and implementation of a variety of loan
forgiveness options, the acceleration of the current loan forgiveness program
and other innovative state initiatives to attract health care providers to rural
areas
Urges incorporation of successful coop models in health care reform at both
the state and federal level and further supports health care reform initiatives
which: improve access to health care services particularly in rural and
undeserved areas; seek to establish a managed health care environment that
facilitates the delivery of affordable, high-quality, cost effective health care;

(Fed. of Coops cont.)

create incentives for employers, individuals, providers and insurers to participate in reform efforts as partners; address issues of insurance reform in order to create more affordable insurance coverage and correct the current imbalance toward specialty providers and specialty care in favor of primary care providers, primary care and prevention of illness

WI CORN GROWERS

*Encourage the state and federal government to allow 100% deductibility of health insurance premiums

WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION

*Amend the Physician Loan Assets Program (560.183) to include distressed rural communities. Increase amounts of loans and grants in these areas

ANIMAL WELFARE

(Only listed those groups which stated a position)

CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

*Support programs and accurate information aimed at schools and the general public to show how people benefit from today's farming methods and animal care. Because fewer people have agriculture backgrounds it is necessary to provide information on animal care consistent with commercial livestock raising

WI FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

*Support animal welfare and reject the concept of animal rights - support the right of farmers to raise livestock in accordance with commonly accepted agricultural practices

FARMERS UNION
Milk Marketing Cooperative

*Deeply concerned about the false claims and actions of animal rights groups based on misinformation on livestock production - Urge the education of the public about up-to-date livestock production

WI FARMERS UNION

*Believe animal rights activists are misinforming the public on the place and care of animals in agriculture - support educational programs to inform the public

*Support efforts to solve the problem of the scarcity of veterinarians in northern counties

WI WOMEN FOR
AGRICULTURE

*Oppose animal rights belief that animals should have the same rights as people and should not be used for any purpose
Support animal welfare belief that animals deserve responsible treatment

WI FEDERATION OF
COOPERATIVES

*Support efforts to educate the public that farmers have a vested interest in keeping their animals healthy, content and well-fed and that farmers deplore cruelty to animals as much as the rest of society
Oppose any legislation that would restrict commonly accepted production practices under the guise of animal welfare

EQUITY COOPERATIVE

*Oppose legislation that would suppress sound livestock management practices under the guise of animal welfare

WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL

***Support** appropriate programs and accurate information aimed at schools and the general public to show how people, agriculture and animals benefit from today's farming methods and animal care

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS (Exact same words as Agri-Business Council)

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

(Only listed groups which stated a position)

WI FARM BUREAU

***Encourage** school districts to revise their agriculture curriculum to a level where credits in agriculture courses can be utilized as a science credit

WI PORK PRODUCERS

***Encourage** school districts to classify appropriate agriculture courses as science equivalent credits counting toward graduation and **encourage** DPI and the VTAE and UW Systems to accept appropriate agriculture courses as science equivalent credits

**EQUITY COOPERATIVE
LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC.**

***Urge** school districts to classify appropriate agriculture courses as science-equivalent graduation requirement credits. Also, **encourage** the UW System and VIAE schools to accept appropriate agriculture courses as science equivalent entrance credits

WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL

***Since 22%** of Wisconsin's work force is dependent on agriculture and agriculture has a \$20 billion annual impact on Wisconsin's economy, the UW system should emphasize the importance of agriculture in its research, extension and educational budgets to allow more applied research and applied research personnel

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

***Strongly urge** the school districts of WI to classify appropriate Ag courses as science equivalent credits counting toward graduation
Encourage DPI, VTAE and the UW System to accept appropriate Ag courses as science equivalent credits
Support a revision of Public Instruction - Law 4 with regards to courses for teacher certification to establish dual certification (Agriculture & Science) of all Agricultural Education teachers graduating from Wisconsin

BGH/DAIRY/MILK PRICING

**WI FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION**

***Oppose** mandatory or voluntary labeling of BST milk at the state level - any regulations should be done nationally

***Urge** that the frequency and extent of farm inspections be in direct relation to quality of milk being produced on the farm

Don't believe that an existing well producing safe water should, because of its location, force a producer off the Grade A market

Support changes in the dairy plant security program to enhance a producer's ability to recover losses

Support movement toward one standard of milk that equals at least Grade A standards

Support Dairy 2020

(Farm Bureau cont.)

*Support research and development of a milk pricing structure which would include the components of milk in relation to their market value

FARMERS UNION
Milk Marketing Cooperative

*Oppose rBGH (a most unwelcome hormone)

*Oppose present rules for drug storage on dairy farms (unfair, unworkable and do little to help prevent contamination of milk with antibiotics)
Encourage inspectors to announce their arrival prior to entering dairy premises for inspection whenever possible

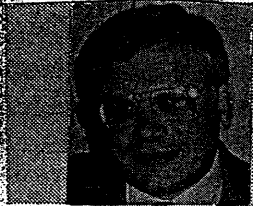
*Encourage state legislators to work for higher farm milk prices

WI FARMERS UNION

*Support national boycott of Monsanto until they cease efforts to block labeling of rBGH-Free dairy products
Support national standards for labeling milk and dairy products

WI FEDERATION OF
COOPERATIVES

*Urge DATCP to actively continue to study multiple component pricing and to establish state regulations to assure uniform base values
Urge that the certification of the safety and wholesomeness of Grade A milk by the Division of Health be financed by public tax dollars and that the Div. of Health coordinate its program with DATCP to minimize costly duplication of activities - if the Governor and Legislature determine that milk certification will be financed with farm and/or plant user fees, program responsibility should be shifted to DATCP
Provide for an orderly transition to milk produced under a single quality standard



*From the Statehouse
to the
Town Hall*
by: *Thomas W. Harnisch*



Well, the Town Parity Bill passed and has been signed into law. Also, we apparently got the SCIP payment increased another \$4 million which should aid poor rural towns.

This SCIP payments means the Town of Cedar Rapids in Rusk County, the smallest and poorest Town per capita in the state, will get some "real" financial help. Also, so will approximately 1,000 other small rural poor towns and small poor villages and cities.

On a personal note, I wish that some of the town officials in these poor small towns would review their actions on town road spending. Apparently between fifty (50) to one hundred (100) small towns do not maximize their state road aids. This means these towns do not get the per mile minimum established by the legislature. Thousands and thousands of dollars are lost to rural areas because town officials in these towns do not levy a sufficient local tax and spent sufficient amounts to qualify for the per mile minimum. Enough said. Please study this program!

Also, the Room Tax mandate passed. Towns and small villages that currently have motels or hotels should act before the effective date or before May 1, whichever is earlier, to enact or amend their ordinances to meet the changes in AB 690. Frankly, towns and villages that do not act by May 1 will be forced to accept a 70% - 30% split payment of the revenues received with the 70% going to a Commission for tourism promotion or these municipalities must spend that 70 per cent of the revenues received directly on tourism promotion. Please see your Town lawyers immediately on this matter now to discuss the ramifications of this bill (soon to be law).

I mentioned in a previous newsletter that the two biggest direct issues affecting towns in this state are urban sprawl and rural small town development (or lack of development). Certainly other issues like property taxes, crime and school spending equality will and do have real impact on certain of our towns and small villages. Well, I will not in this letter provide a "cook book" of ideas for urban sprawl prevention. I am preparing a "cookbook" on limiting urban sprawl however. I will note a "cookbook" of ideas for state government to aid rural small town development. This list is not exhaustive in scope. It does not address what the federal government can and should do to aid Wisconsin's rural areas.

Without being partisan, the rural development actions in both Madison and Washington are at best minimal and at worst a cruel joke. This is my frontal attack on federal

and state leaders of both parties. Yes, we get a few bucks for SCIP. Yes, the federal government has limited dollars for rural bloc grant programs. Yes, we have also the state Clean Water Fund for small villages and a few towns. Beyond these three limited actions, I am at a loss to mention significant state and federal assistance for rural areas. Certainly, for the real small rural towns nothing exists in grant dollars for community development. The new federal programs appear to focus on, and are geared to aid, unique "poverty" areas primarily in the South. The State's focus for rural development appears focused primarily on business development for cities and villages.

Well, below is my vision and my "cookbook" for rural development at the state level. Hopefully, Senator Feingold (US Senate Agriculture Committee), Representative Gunderson (US House Agriculture Committee) and Representative Obey (Appropriations Committee) can get more rural development efforts going for Wisconsin in Washington D.C. To date, the national effort for rural development financing for Wisconsin is simply meaningless if you exclude dairy programs. So then, what should be done by the Governor and the legislature in Wisconsin?

- 1.) Provide a statutory definition of distressed rural communities.
- 2.) Create specific statutory responsibilities for the major state agencies and departments to aid these distressed rural communities (DNR, DOT, DOD, and UW Extension).
- 3.) Create special rural tax incremental financing districts (TIF's) to allow for increased local infrastructure funding in these rural communities.
- 4.) Create new specific state allocated loan and grant dollars in DOD, DNR, DOT, and DHSS "targeted" to aid only these distressed rural communities for their community development. How about ten (10) million dollars for starters?
- 5.) Require priority placement by the State Building Commission of certain state public facilities in or near these distressed communities (assuming these communities desire these facilities).
- 6.) Provide new major state income tax incentives for new private commercial and industrial enterprises to be located in these communities. How about five (5) million dollars for starters?

(OVER)

7.) Subsidize low interest development loans to new commercial and industrial enterprises that locate in these communities. How about five (5) million dollars for starters?

8.) Provide a new major K - 12 school aid funding system to the school districts wherein these distressed communities are located to insure at least average per teacher and per student expenditures. Here, a sum sufficient will be necessary.

9.) Create specific new state subsidies and new grants for skilled trades and professional persons to reside and work in these communities. Here, one (1) million dollars might be sufficient.

10.) Create a special legislative committee to focus on the needs of the distressed rural communities.

11.) Create a distressed community "ombudsman" in DOD whose role it is to only aid these communities.

12.) Create a state public council assigned to DOD whose role it is to suggest action by the Governor, State agencies and the Legislature to aid these communities.

13.) Create a special University of Wisconsin Extension task force to create and distribute community development materials and manuals along with educational and leadership programs geared for the leaders of these communities.

14.) Establish an annual Governor's conference on distressed rural communities to focus attention on the plight and condition of distressed rural communities and to offer new ideas to federal, state and local leaders to aid these communities.

15.) Provide financial aid for the Governors Council on Rural Development to "target" education and leadership training for rural community development in distressed rural communities.

16.) Create a revolving low interest cooperative development loan fund in DOD for community economic development projects in distressed rural communities.

17.) Create a new special community development grant and loan fund in DOD for distressed rural communities to address specific community needs (environmental, social, recreational and political). Specifically, the following needs:

- a.) Pollution reduction
- b.) Public nuisance reduction
- c.) Fewer school dropouts and increased test scores
- d.) Crime reduction
- e.) Better trained public employees/public officers
- f.) Historic and cultural preservation
- g.) Health care services
- h.) Library service

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- i.) Recreational service
- j.) Youth employment grants
- k.) Better transit/communication services
- l.) Community development plans
- m.) Community land use/zoning plans and ordinances
- n.) Job training grants
- o.) Infrastructure improvements

18.) Require the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) in its selecting conservation projects to consider first the rural distressed communities.

19.) Amend the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (234.45) to create a housing loan priority for rural distressed areas.

20.) Amend the Economic Development Loan program (234.65) for economic development loan priority for distressed rural areas.

21.) Amend the Development Fund Grant "targeted" criteria (560.605) to include distressed rural communities.

22.) Amend Development Zone criteria (560.71) to (560.75) to include distressed rural communities.

23.) Amend Community Development Finance Company (234.94) to include as a "target group" or "target area" the distressed rural communities.

24.) Amend the Community Based Economic Development Program under (560.14) to include distressed rural communities.

25.) Amend the Rural Economic Development Program (560.17) to include distressed rural communities. Increase amounts of loans or grants in these areas.

26.) Amend the Physician Loan Assets Program (560.183) to include distressed rural communities. Increase amounts of loans and grants in these areas.

27.) Amend the Hazardous Pollution Prevention Audit Grants Program (560.19) to include distressed rural communities as priority and increase grant amounts.

28.) Amend the Economic and Community Development Planning Program (560.08) to include distressed rural communities.

29.) Amend State Main Street Program (560.081) to include rural distressed communities as a priority area.

30.) Amend Industrial Building Construction Loan Program (560.10) to include rural distressed communities as priority areas for loans.

31.) Amend Export Development Loan Program (560.165) to establish loan priority for small businesses located in a rural distressed area. Increase the amount of these loans.

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- 32.) Amend Blighted Area Law (66.43) to include rural distressed areas.
- 33.) Create Rural Renewal Law similar to Urban Renewal Law (66.435).
- 34.) Allow towns the same powers as villages under (66.436) for rural renewal.
- 35.) Amend the Reinvestment Neighborhoods Act (66.465) to establish criteria to qualify rural distressed communities.
- 36.) Amend Regional Planning Commission Law (66.945) to establish for them a priority planning role to aid distressed rural communities.
- 37.) Amend University of Wisconsin Special programs (36.25) to include recruiting students from distressed rural areas and to establish priority scholarships for students from these areas.
- 38.) Amend University of Wisconsin Special programs (36.25) to create a Center for Rural Communities to attempt to create for distressed rural communities education and leadership.
- 39.) Amend the powers and duties of the Board of Regents (36.11) to require the Board to promote public awareness, access to and training of educators and other professionals for service in rural distressed areas.
- 40.) Amend Incentive Grants Program (38.27) to provide training grants for persons residing in rural distressed areas.
- 41.) Amend Independent Student Grant Program (39.45) to include financially needy resident students from rural distressed communities.
- 42.) Amend Child Care Start Up and Expense Program (46.986) to specifically establish distressed rural communities as the first priority for grants in depressed rural areas in the state.
- 43.) Create Distressed Rural Community Forestry Grant Program similar to the Urban Forestry Grant (23.097).
- 44.) Establish priority project funding for distressed rural communities under the Stewardship program (23.0915) funds.
- 45.) Establish priority project funding for distressed rural communities in Stream Bank Protection Program (23.094).
- 46.) Establish priority project funding for nonprofit conservation organizations property purchases (23.096) in distressed rural communities.

These are my ideas for change to aid distressed rural towns and other rural areas. Hopefully, you have ideas to help these distressed rural towns and rural areas. If you do call or write to share them with me. I always give credit to good and bad ideas. Possibly, a legislator interested in rural areas will decide to lead in this area. With elections coming up in November, should not rural development action be an issue for the Legislative and Gubernatorial elections?



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

To: All Legislators

From: Representative Al Ott & Representative John Ainsworth

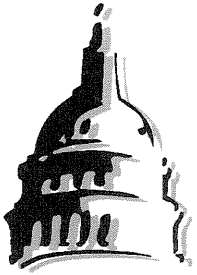
Date: August 21, 1995

As many of you know, last year we solicited ideas from agricultural and community leaders throughout the state on how state government could help rural Wisconsin. Assembly Republicans then reviewed all of these ideas and developed the "Agenda for Rural Wisconsin" in October of 1994. We are pleased to report that with your help, we have been very successful in accomplishing many of the goals set forth in the Agenda.

We are now asking for your help on another of the goals in the Agenda. The goal states:

State environmental regulators must be required to be familiar with all the regulations rural Wisconsinites have to comply with, not just the ones each regulator is directly responsible for.

While we realize we may only be able to encourage regulators to familiarize themselves with the regulations pertaining to rural Wisconsin, we are still interested in finding out exactly how big of a problem this is. Please let us know if you have received any complaints from constituents regarding situations where they have been required to follow conflicting regulations, where they have been required to conform to one regulation and as a result they were in violation of another regulation, etc. This problem was brought to our attention by some of the agricultural organizations we surveyed and with your help we hope to be able to find out the extent of their concerns. Thank you!



**ASSEMBLY
REPUBLICAN
CAUCUS**

MEMORANDUM

August 24, 1995

TO: Kim, Rep. Ott's Office
FROM: John Liethen, ARC
RE: Sales Information at Municipal Level

The Rural Agenda noted that certain UW-Extension officers were disappointed that the Department of Revenue (DOR) does not release gross sales receipts at the municipal level.

According to the DOR, they do not tabulate gross sales receipts at the municipal level and, therefore, do not release such information. Due to the ability of counties to levy a sales tax and their requirement to submit reports to the state, the DOR is able to tabulate county level gross sales receipts by business sector. This information is available to the public every calendar year. Currently, 46 of 72 counties levy a county tax.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**RAY CAREY
DIRECTOR**

100 NORTH HAMILTON ST.
ROOM 406, P.O. BOX 8952
MADISON, WI 53708-8952

TEL: 608 266-1452
FAX: 608 264-6999



**ASSEMBLY
REPUBLICAN
CAUCUS**

MEMORANDUM

October 11, 1995

To: All Assembly GOP Legislators and Staff
From: Chris Tuttle, ARC Media Director *CMT*
Subject: Media Materials for Today's Floor Activity

Attached is a sample "Joe Schmoe" press release on today's passage of the final bills of the Rural Agenda.

As always, do not copy from this release verbatim.

Please call me at 266-1452 if you have any questions.

**RAY CAREY
DIRECTOR**

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**DO NOT COPY DIRECTLY
FROM THIS RELEASE.**

Joe Schmoe

State Representative • 100th Assembly District

**** NOTE: DO NOT COPY THIS PRESS RELEASE VERBATIM ****

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Contact: Rep. Joe Schmoe (608) 266-XXXX

October XX, 1995

GOP RURAL AGENDA PASSES ASSEMBLY

Legislators celebrate "victory for rural Wisconsin"

Madison - The passage of Right to Farm and other legislation in the Assembly Tuesday marked the successful culmination of a major effort by Republican legislators to address the needs and problems of rural Wisconsinites.

"This is a tremendous victory," said Representative Joe Schmoe (R-Riverbottom). "We set out a year ago to help the people of rural Wisconsin, and today's action puts a capstone on those efforts."

Schmoe said he was especially pleased with the passage of Assembly Bill 546, known as the Right to Farm bill. He explained that residential expansion into rural areas has led to conflict -- including lawsuits -- between farmers and homeowners regarding such issues as machinery noise and farm odor. Schmoe said the legislation would protect farmers from the unreasonable burden of having to prove the legitimacy of agricultural practices.

"The business of farming in Wisconsin must be protected from people who don't understand agriculture and its fundamental importance to our state," Schmoe said. "These Right to Farm protections will help residential development co-exist with agriculture by formalizing the rights and responsibilities of both parties."

Schmoe said that although it has taken some time to pass all the legislation introduced a year ago, the result was worth the fight.

"It's been a long haul," Schmoe said, "but now that we're through these battles, I can say that the fight was well worth it. We've made major strides in helping rural Wisconsin. We promised real progress, and we've delivered."

Schmoe listed some of the other bills included in the Assembly's Rural Agenda that have passed over the past year. These bills have included:

* Massive Property Tax Relief Budget - Provides \$1.2 billion in property tax relief to Wisconsinites

- MORE -

RURAL AGENDA
ADD ONE

- * Use-Value Assessment - Makes Wisconsin's property tax structure more fair by taking property's use into account when assessing its value
- * Establish FARM Program - Establishes the Farm Asset Reinvestment Management (FARM) program providing guaranteed loans to assist farmers in improving and acquiring farm assets
- * CROP Program Permanence - Makes the Credit Relief Outreach Program (CROP) permanent, ensuring that farmers will continue to be eligible for low-interest agricultural production loans

#

Ag Colleges -

**ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
RURAL AGENDA
PRESS CONFERENCE PACKET
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1995**

PRESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**November 27, 1995
10:00 a.m.**

***** PLEASE MEET FOR PRE-BRIEF AT 9:30 a.m. *****

**QUESTIONS: CONTACT CHRIS TUTTLE, ARC MEDIA DIRECTOR
(608) 266-1452 office
(608) 235-0122 portable
(608) 251-9022 home**

MADISON

Site: 318 Southwest, State Capitol

**Participants: Freese (Lead)
Albers (Unconfirmed)
Hahn
Powers (Unconfirmed)
Silbaugh
Skindrud**

Pre-Brief: Freese Office (115 West)

APPLETON

Site: Appleton Public Library
225 N. Oneida Street
Meeting Room

Participants: Prosser (Lead)
Klusman (Unconfirmed)
Ainsworth
Ott
Lasee

Pre-Brief: On site

Directions:

- * 41 to College Ave. E
- * to downtown, left on Morrison
- * take next left on Washington St.
- * you'll see a parking ramp (should use)
- * library on corner of Washington and Oneida

EAU CLAIRE

Site: Chippewa Valley Technical College
620 W. Clairemont Avenue
Round Table Room, downstairs, Rm 25

Participants: Kreibich
Zukowski (Unconfirmed)

Pre-Brief: On-site

Directions: * Clairemont Avenue to CVTC

LA CROSSE

Site: Western Wisconsin Technical College
405 N. 8th, Business Education Bldg.
2nd Floor, Rm 205D

Participants: Johnsrud (LEAD)
Brandemuehl
Huebsch
Musser (Unconfirmed)

Pre-Brief: On-site

Directions: * Hwy 53 to La Crosse Street E
* Right on 8th, BE Bldg. on right

The Republican Rural Agenda

***A Year of Success:
"Promises Made - Promises Kept."***

- Real Property Tax Relief*** **DELIVERED**
- Use-Value Assessment*** **DELIVERED**
- Right to Farm*** **DELIVERED**
- Making CROP Permanent*** **DELIVERED**
- FARM Program*** **DELIVERED**
- Farmers Chairing
Assembly Committees*** **DELIVERED**
- Demanding Changes in
Federal Milk Marketing System*** ... **DELIVERED**

BACKGROUND AND FACTS

Rural Bills Passed by Assembly and Current Status

"*" indicates legislation promised during Rural Agenda announcement last year

"+" indicates "regulatory reform" legislation also promised during Rural Agenda announcement last year

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passed 99-0, May 18, 1995
with Governor
- + AB 22 Repeal Brucellosis Testing (Rep. Ainsworth)**
passed 57-42, May 18, 1995
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- AB 230 Grain Dealers and Warehouse Keepers (Rep. Hahn)**
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WI Act 42
- AB 251 Damage to Property by Animals (Rep. Skindrud)**
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- * AJR 17 Federal Milk Marketing (Rep. Ott)**
passed voice, February 28, 1995
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- + AB 39 Fees on Fertilizer/Seed Invoices (Rep. Ward)**
passed 98-0, February 28, 1995
WI Act 4

MESSAGES AND THEMES

- * **Assembly Republicans recognize the vital role of rural Wisconsin and the importance of maintaining a way of life that makes up much of our state's character and tradition.**
- * **A year ago, Assembly Republicans brought forth a vision and a legislative plan to make government more friendly and fair to rural Wisconsinites; this plan was our "Republican Rural Agenda."**
- * **The GOP got the job done. We are reporting back a year later with a tremendous success story: we have delivered on the promises made when we announced the Rural Agenda, and we have accomplished much, much more.**
- * **Promises made, promises kept. We have delivered for rural Wisconsin and we will continue to make good on our promises. Republicans keep their word.**

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passed 91-7, February 28, 1995
WI Act 5

+ AB 60 Fencing Requirements (Rep. Hahn)
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WI Act 41

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WI Act 9

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TALKING POINTS

- * **Last year Assembly Republicans promised to work in support of rural Wisconsin. We set our legislative goals and delivered on that promise. One year later, the Republican record speaks for itself -- we have delivered:**

GOAL: The full implementation of a real property tax cut. Recent studies have shown that Wisconsin farmers pay more in property taxes than farmers in other states. Wisconsin farmers pay close to three times the property tax rate as farmers in other Midwest states.

DELIVERED: After years of empty rhetoric from the Democrats, Republicans took charge and delivered the largest property tax cut in the history of the state. \$1.2 billion back in the pockets of Wisconsin's farmers and homeowners. Not only did we deliver this massive tax relief, we did it without shifting taxes or eliminating sales tax exemptions for farmers.

GOAL: To implement use-value assessment to ensure property tax fairness for agricultural landowners.

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GOAL: To eliminate frivolous nuisance lawsuits against farmers, allowing them to do their job without risk of legal action for normal farming activity

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GOAL: Making loan funds more available to farmers to help ensure future financial stability.

DELIVERED: Republicans passed AB 56 -- making the Credit Relief Outreach Program (CROP) permanent, which ensures that farmers will remain eligible for low-interest agriculture production loans. Assembly Republicans also passed the Farm Asset Reinvestment Management (FARM) Program, which provides low-interest loan guarantees to farmers for farm asset improvement loans.

GOAL: To create separate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees to address important issues going beyond traditional agricultural policy. Also to appoint farmers as committee chairs in order to provide a much-needed voice for rural Wisconsin.

DELIVERED: Rep. Ott is now chair of the newly-created Agriculture committee; Rep. Ainsworth is now chair of the newly-created Rural Affairs Committee. Sixteen farmers now serve as chairs of Assembly committees, including the Assembly co-chair of the Joint Committee on Finance.

GOAL: To work to create a more level playing field for Wisconsin's dairy farmers.

DELIVERED: Assembly Republicans passed AJR 17 -- Memorializing Congress to reform the unfair Federal Milk Marketing system. For the first time in 50 years, Congressional leadership is seriously considering a complete overhaul of the milk marketing system which will benefit Wisconsin's dairy producers.



Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Contact: Rep. Judy Klusman (608) 266-7500
Rep. Al Ott (608) 266-5831
Rep. John Ainsworth (608) 266-3097
Rep. Frank Lasee (608) 266-9870

December 8, 1995

ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN RURAL AGENDA A SUCCESS

Farmers to enjoy property tax relief, bigger voice in government

After just over a year of work, Assembly Republicans have fulfilled the promises contained in the Rural Agenda, their legislative plan to address the needs and problems of rural Wisconsinites.

"Assembly Republicans made promises last year, and now we've fulfilled them," said Assembly Assistant Majority Leader Judy Klusman (R-Oshkosh). "We recognize the vital role of rural Wisconsin and the importance of maintaining a way of life that makes up so much of our state's economy, character and tradition."

The most far-reaching aspect of the Assembly Republican Rural Agenda is the \$1.2 billion of property tax relief and the phase-in of use-value property assessment contained in the state budget. Studies have shown Wisconsin farmers pay close to three times the property tax rate as farmers in other Midwest states.

"Skyrocketing property taxes and unfair land assessments have placed a tremendous burden on family farmers," said Rep. Al Ott (R-Forest Junction), chairman of the Assembly Agriculture Committee. "Real property tax relief and use-value assessment will help farming remain the backbone of Wisconsin's economy for decades to come."

Another important provision in the Rural Agenda is the Right to Farm bill that passed in October. Rep. Frank Lasee (R-Ledgeview) said residential expansion into rural areas has led to conflict between farmers and homeowners regarding such issues as machinery noise and farm odor.

"The Right to Farm bill will protect farmers from unreasonable lawsuits over common agricultural practices," Lasee said. "By giving farmers this protection, we're telling them that we value their indispensable contribution to both the economy and spirit of Wisconsin."

- MORE -

RURAL AGENDA RELEASE
ADD ONE

Other provisions of the Assembly Republican Rural Agenda include:

- * **Making CROP Permanent** - The Credit Relief Outreach Program (CROP) temporarily provided low-interest agriculture production loans for farmers. Assembly Republicans passed a bill making the program permanent.
- * **FARM Program** - Assembly Republicans passed a bill to establish the Farm Asset Reinvestment Management (FARM) Program, providing low-interest loan guarantees to farmers for farm asset improvements.
- * **Separate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees** - Assembly Republicans created these separate committees to address issues beyond traditional agriculture policy.
- * **Farmers as Committee Chairs** - Under Republican leadership, sixteen farmers now chair Assembly committees, including the Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Joint Finance Committees.
- * **Level the Playing Field for Wisconsin Dairy Farmers** - Assembly Republicans passed a resolution asking Congress to reform the unfair Federal Milk Marketing system. For the first time in 50 years, Congressional leadership is seriously considering a complete overhaul of the milk marketing system which will benefit Wisconsin's dairy producers.

"Representation for rural Wisconsin has entered a new era," said Assembly Rural Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. John Ainsworth (R-Shawano). "The Republican majority in the Assembly has the best interest of rural Wisconsin as a top priority on its agenda."

Klusman said it took Republican leadership and commitment to make these promises a reality.

"Because of our ties to the rural community, Assembly Republicans are dedicated to ensuring that the needs of rural Wisconsin are given the same priority as the needs of urban areas," Klusman said. "By fulfilling our promises from the Rural Agenda, we've proven that farmers can depend on Republicans to listen and respond."

#

File for future ref. Campaigns etc

The Republican Rural Agenda

**A Year of Success:
"Promises Made - Promises Kept."**

all of us

Real Property Tax Relief DELIVERED

Ruthen

Use-Value Assessment DELIVERED

Frank

Right to Farm DELIVERED

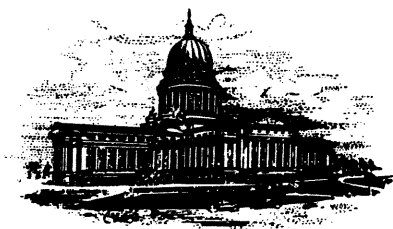
all

Making CROP Permanent DELIVERED

FARM Program DELIVERED

**Farmers Chairing
Assembly Committees DELIVERED**

**Demanding Changes in
Federal Milk Marketing System DELIVERED**



Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

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**ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
RURAL AGENDA
PRESS CONFERENCE PACKET**

Friday, December 8, 1995

***** PLEASE NOTE: Some times and locations have changed from the last packet. Please look at your specific press conference information carefully. *****

PRESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION

QUESTIONS: CONTACT CHRIS TUTTLE, ARC MEDIA DIRECTOR
(608) 266-1452 office
(608) 235-0122 portable
(608) 251-9022 home

MADISON

Time: 10:00am

Site: Assembly Parlor

Participants: Freese (Lead)
Ward (Lead)
Albers (Unconfirmed)
Powers
Silbaugh
Skindrud

Pre-Brief: 9:30am in Rep. Freese's Office (115 West)

APPLETON

Time: 9:30am

Site: Appleton Public Library
225 N. Oneida Street
Meeting Room

Participants: Ott (Lead)
Klusman (Unconfirmed)
Lasee

Pre-Brief: 9:00am on site

Directions: * 41 to College Ave. E
* to downtown, left on Morrison
* take next left on Washington St.
* you'll see a parking ramp (should use)
* library on corner of Washington and Oneida

EAU CLAIRE

Time: 9:00am

Site: Chippewa Valley Technical College
620 W. Clairemont Avenue
Board Room (room 100), just inside entrance

Participants: Harsdorf (Lead)
Kreibich
Zukowski

Pre-Brief: 8:30am on site

Directions: * Clairemont Avenue to CVTC

LA CROSSE

Time: 10:00am

Site: Western Wisconsin Technical College
405 N. 8th, Business Education Bldg.
2nd Floor, Rm 205D

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Bill Idea

✓ w/ DPI

from resolutions

* school districts count appropriate ag courses as science equivalent credits counting toward graduation

+ DPI, VTAE, UW accept these credits as science equivalent

(see livestock breeders resolution)

- need well educated people to continue farming industry
- strength - higher education yet go into farming

* Get brochures back from Prosser annex

DIRECTIVES CONTAINED IN THE
REPUBLICAN AGENDA FOR RURAL WISCONSIN

- 1) Effective and lasting property tax relief
 - a) Preserve current agriculture exemptions
 - ~~Le~~ b) Use value assessments for farmland
 - ~~Le~~ c) Maintain revenue caps and spending restraints
 - d) Use zero-base budgeting principle in state budget
 - ~~Le~~ e) Consider reform of the Farmland Preservation Program, expansion of Farmland Tax Credits, or reduced taxation of farmland

John → 2) Consider the expansion of the Physician Loan Assistance Program as well as the similar program which offers assistance to nurses, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives.

3) Ensure that rural residents have the same access to telecommunications technology that residents of urban areas do

2. doll Dave 4) Maintain a good highway system and construct new needed segments -- especially focus on Hwy 29 and Hwy 151

- a) Increase local road aids

5) Develop ways to encourage home-grown, local leaders
what is extension doing?

John → 6) Increase funding for and simplify application forms for: The Main Street Program, Rural Economic Development Grants, and the Community-Based Economic Development Program

John has bill 7) Encourage non-traditional farm industries such as: An ethanol production facility and (transferring the authority to regulate deer farming on enclosed sites from the DNR to the Agriculture Department) → AI *(Gene)*

budget 8) Expand the Exit/Entry Program to increase efforts to match retiring farmers with beginning farmers

9) Direct DOA to conduct trials with Ground-source heat pumps (GHPs) in a small number of state buildings to improve statewide energy efficiency

10) Require DOA to release retail sales information to help business leaders analyze local trade practices

11) Require DOA to assess the impact on local governments of removing land from the property tax rolls
*Harriet Jacobs liberal * Dick Barrows (1970's research) - b/c of state aid formulas, communities are actually better off when land comes off tax rolls*

2. Gray 12) Establish a Property Rights Impact Office for 2 years

13) Increase the technical and financial assistance offered by DNR and DATCP for farmers seeking to comply with regulations related to water quality, non-point source pollution, disposal of hazardous materials, etc. -- Best done through administrative changes

Patronsky working on animal waste project

- 14) Require state environmental regulators to be familiar with all regulations facing rural Wisconsinites -- not just the ones each regulator is directly responsible for. -- Best done through administrative changes

- 15) Federal policies we should attempt to impact:
 - AJR 17 (a) Establishment of a uniform minimum fluid milk price in all areas covered by federal orders
 - b) Provide outreach and technical assistance to farmers to address rural water quality problems instead of regulation and harsh enforcement mechanisms
 - c) Provide financial assistance to small rural communities to improve water quality through the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts
 - d) End unfunded federal mandates
 - e) Make medicare reimbursements to rural hospitals adequate
 - f) Allow farmers a 100% deduction on federal income tax for the cost of health insurance premiums

To	Date	Time
From	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Call <input type="checkbox"/> Returning Call	
Phone	Taken By	
<input type="checkbox"/> Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Route	<input type="checkbox"/> For Your Inf. <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Sign	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Take Action <input type="checkbox"/> Return <input type="checkbox"/> File

Talk to H1

* Purnal Agenda press conference

* Prosser said we don't have to wait till October

- whenever all + John are comfortable

[Handwritten signature]

No. of Copies: Typing Photocopy Copy Center Copy from Microfilm

Date Need: Time Need Rough Final Double Single Original Document Revised Document



Friday

at want to know when sending out press by media advisers & follow up procedure

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

* candidates today

- advisory Friday
follow up Monday
phone call Tuesday

all reviewed John Oncken with Miller

North Hearing Room Thu. 18th - 9:30

let John, Friday, others know

Appleton

okay

739-3186

Farm Credit Services
3962 N Richmond
Appleton, WI

Jack Curada
Carl Trembl

~~PCA~~

(2 conf. Rooms)

send info to Ray (Killian's district)

Raymond + Debbie Diederich
521 Fernando Drive
De Pere, WI
414-336-8942

W out of De Pere on Hwy G / G turns into Fernando

Green Bay

~~Green Bay Area~~
~~400 S. Wash~~
~~Green Bay~~
Frank G. Gurnea
437-8704
Doris Turner

264-6999

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

okay

Oshkosh

* Chief Equipment. - 414-231-6251
Oshkosh

John Fay * :-

2601 S. Washburn
(Int. of Hwy 41 + 44)

(Jim Jacobson)
~~Ol Swiderski Implement - Mosinee
693-3015
* Willie + Gene 675-2491
Witter Farm (just outside)
junction there before
Dave Anderson
* Cty. Fairgrounds Exhibit Bldg
715-847-5239
Cty. Extension office
T-Maing Hall (just outside)
Pete Kohlen 715-341-8700
FMHA~~

Wausau



(Jim Jacobson's district)

Ol Swiderski Implement, Inc
Old Hwy 51 North
Mosinee, WI
715-693-3015

* Farm Credit Services
Mike Krutza 715-842-2211
* Wausau Insurance

current
2-47
7 R
GOP open seats
2 already GOP
(primaries)

→ Assembly Republicans have not been in the majority for 24 years.
→ Prosser elected in 1978; Cloyd Porter elected in 1972
→ No current Assembly Republicans have ever been in the majority
→ 13 of 17 Senate Republicans served in the Assembly - shows we have what it takes to be leaders as they now are (Ellis, Panzer, Lasee, Rosenzweig...)

Prosser

timistic will
retain all
incumbents +
open seats

* question year after year - what kind of economy do we have? Are people employed? People continue to look at urban areas - cities but the Legislature hasn't paid any systematic attention to rural WI for years.

Dem open seats
1st - favorable
34th - favorable
2nd - favorable
a little less
8th - more
71st - difficult

* Party ~~that~~ that wants to be in majority doesn't deserve majority unless they have some plans + answers for rural WI.

or 6 Dem seats
here we have
chance of
replacing Dem
incumbents

* As a caucus, talked, argued, compromised
* Caucus consists of urban, suburban (with some constituents who've never been on a farm) and rural members

4th - Killian
3th - Lawenberg
4th - Hipstich
8th - Kelso
6th - Jacobson

* Agenda ~~was~~ was a lot of discussion + hard work

Al

it gain of 3
be majority

* We should continue this process by going out to the people in rural WI; hold hearings at the grassroots level - it is probably our responsibility to do this

John

* According to recent news article, Sec. Alan Tracy believes the USDA is finally seeing there are problems - especially with milk marketing order

Al

* A lot of things that impact us in WI are federal